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**ENHANCEMENT: ANNUALLY IMPROVE HABITAT FOR MIGRATING AND OVER-WINTERING WATERFOWL, SHOREBIRDS AND WADING BIRDS BY FLOODING GRAIN CROP RESIDUE TO AN AVERAGE DEPTH OF 3-6" BETWEEN NOV. 15 AND MARCH 15.**

**DESCRIPTION**

By enhancing shallow water management on harvested grain fields, you will provide migration stop-over, resting and feeding habitat for ducks, geese, wading birds and shore birds that glean grain waste, weed seeds, and invertebrates in puddles and mud flats. You may coincidentally improve water quality by arresting runoff from the field.

This practice involves trapping water (or pumping it) onto fields of grain residue after harvest. Building of temporary earthen embankments may be necessary on some sites.

This activity can follow the normal pattern of crop rotation among fields.

The \$20 per acre enhancement payment is based on the acreage of grain residue flooded each year.

*NOTE: Federal migratory bird hunting regulations have historically prohibited waterfowl hunting over flooded grain residue. You must understand the migratory bird hunting regulations to ensure no hunting violation occurs. Those regulations are published by the NC Wildlife Resource Commission every year.*

**REQUIREMENTS**

Include these practice requirements in the conservation plan:

- Leave a grain crop residue undisturbed after harvest.
- Install temporary earthworks needed to impound 6 inches or less of water over the crop residue
- Accumulate precipitation or pump ditch water onto the field until it reaches the needed depth range
- Hold the water on the field between Nov. 15 and March 15
- Release the water by removing the earthworks

Maintain records of the practice using the table on the back of this sheet.

**RECORDKEEPING:** In order to verify compliance with the requirements, use this form to document the implementation and maintenance of this enhancement.

Field(s)	Crop Harvested	Flood-Up Date	Drain-Down Date	Date Checked